



Environmental Quality Board

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April 26, 2004

Carole L. Schmidt, Environmental Scientist
Great River Energy
17845 East Highway 10, P.O. Box 800
Elk River, Minnesota 55330-0800

Re: Application for Minor Alteration, Westwood Substation

Dear Ms. Schmidt:

Great River Energy (GRE) has applied to the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) for approval to modify the Stearns Electric Association Westwood Substation in St. Joseph Township, Minnesota. That modification involves addition of a 115 kV transformer, high-side facilities and switch structure to the existing 69 kV substation.

The EQB mailed notice to those persons on the agency's energy facilities notification list on April 9, 2004. The notice was also posted on the EQB website. Comments on the project were due to the EQB by Friday, April 23, 2004. The EQB has not received a single comment on the project.

Based on staff review of the project, and the fact that not a single comment was received about the project, I have determined that the project is indeed minor and that, in accordance with the Chair's authority under Minn. Rules, part 4400.3820, subp. 3, I hereby authorize Great River Energy to proceed with the project as described in your submission of April 1, 2004.

If you have any additional questions on this matter, feel free to contact David Birkholz at (651) 296-2878 or david.birkholz@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Schroeder, Chair

cc: Tim Weir, Stearns Electric Association